

Our ref: HA48/2/106

Your ref:

National Property Management and  
Disposal Team  
Ash House  
Falcon Road  
Exeter EX2 7LB

Direct Line:

Fax: 01392 312537

13 May 2009

Dear [Name removed under the Data Protection Act]

## **LAND SOLD TO MINING COMPANIES**

Thank you for your email requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act about land sold by the Highways Agency to mining companies.

Our electronic property database does not record the details of people or companies that have purchased our land. We have sold approximately 1300 properties or parcels of land since 1997 and detailed information about the purchasers could only be determined by an extensive search of the paper records, even then we are unlikely to hold details of the business interests of the purchaser. The cost of researching and compiling this information would be in excess £600. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act does not oblige us to comply with a request if it exceeds this limit.

I am not sure if you are aware that information regarding the current ownership of registered land is already in the public domain at HM Land Registry. Further information about this information can be found on the Land Registry website using the following website link: <http://www.landreg.gov.uk/>. This will also give you further guidance on how to search for property ownership details.

In your letter you made particular reference to land adjacent to the M1 in Nottinghamshire. The current M1 widening is the only widening that has taken place in Nottinghamshire and all our depots associated with this work are still required but if you are able to provide me with a plan that shows the specific sites you are interested in I will be happy to make further enquiries. Details on how to make an enquiry about land ownership can also be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

You might also be interested to note that when we buy land by Compulsory Purchase we do not usually buy the mineral interest because we have protection in the Mining Code under the Compulsory Purchase Acts against mineral workings that could affect the Trunk road and Motorway network.

If you are unhappy with the decisions made by us in relation to your request for information, you may ask for an internal review. This request should be made to me. A leaflet detailing our internal review process is available from this [link](#) or by calling the Highways Agency Information Line on 01457 50 40 30, or e-mail [ha\\_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal reviews, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Mr Paul Williamson